

**FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
held at the Laurence Pettingill Hall, Ellis Elementary School
432 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044
10 March 2007**

Call to Order: Fremont School District Moderator Ann Marie Scribner called the Meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Moderator Ann Marie Scribner led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of the Board, Panel, and Guests: SAU 83 Legal Council Gordon Graham, SAU 83 Superintendent Norman Tanguay, Financial Administrator Ann Marie Scribner, Member Marion Guidiboni, Member Christine Kenneway, Vice Chairman Peg Pinkham, Member Jeff Rowell, School Board Chairman Joe Dreyer, and School Board District Clerk Kathi Picone. Middle School Principal Kelli Kellin and Elementary School Principal Dawn Lewis were also introduced.

Moderator Scribner stated that Assistant School District Moderator Bob Rydeen would be leading the meeting.

Moderator Rydeen asked the body if they wanted to limit speakers to Fremont residents or that all attendees be allowed to speak? The body indicated by Majority that only Fremont residents be allowed to speak during the meeting.

Principal Kelli Killen informed the school board members, panelists, and attendees that 8th Grade Students attended Rachel's Challenge at Sanborn Regional High School. Student Council Members Ashley Barker, Brandie Rice, and Haley Lundgren created a Power Point presentation about Rachel's Challenge. A chain with acts of kindness was shown to attendees with the challenge of having the chain go from Ellis School to the Fremont Town Hall by the end of the school year.

Principal Killen asked students to create a presentation based on the question, "What do you think makes Ellis School a great school?" The presentation was viewed by all in attendance.

***To the Inhabitants of the School District in the Town of Fremont, New Hampshire
qualified to vote in District affairs:***

You are hereby notified to meet at the Laurence Pettengill Hall, Ellis School, in said District on the 10th day of March 2007, at five o'clock in the evening to act upon the following subjects and to hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees or officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Citizen Peter Bearse addressed the School Board with a Point of Order. Why the meeting is not being held according to Article 3 of the School Board Charter? Citizen Bearse proceeded to read a point in the charter which stated that school district meetings would be held after town and school elections. After some discussion, Citizen Bearse read Article 3.

Legal Counsel Gordan Graham stated the meeting can move forward if the body approves. A motion to continue was made by a Fremont Citizen and seconded by a Fremont Citizen.

Citizen Bearse questioned whether the voting body can supersede the school charter?

Vice Chairman Peg Pinkham addressed the body stating that there were many opportunities before the meeting to address the charter question as to the timing of the meeting. She encouraged community members to attend school board meetings and to get involved.

School Board Chairman Joe Dreyer suggested the meeting be recessed in order for legal counsel to review charter until Saturday, March 17 at 9:00 a.m. Vice Chairman Pinkham stated the meeting could continue as a forum.

Citizen Andy Kohlhofer asked if the meeting needed to be reposted? Chairman Dreyer indicated that legal counsel stated no because we would only be recessing the meeting.

Counsel Gordan Graham, Superintendent Tanguay, and the School Board reviewed the language in the charter. Member Christine Kenneway read the language of article in the charter and addresses voting on bond articles by official ballot vote. Counsel Graham reiterated that the charter is for voting by official ballot on bond articles and stated that the meeting can move forward.

Before the meeting continued, Vice Chairman Pinkham presented outgoing School Board Chairman Dreyer with a plaque in appreciation for his six years of service on the school board. Flowers were also presented to Helena Dreyer. Chairman Dreyer addressed the body and stated it was an honor to serve the community.

Moderator Rydeen stated to the body that he was presented with 6 signatures requesting a secret ballot for Article 1.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Fremont School District vote to implement public kindergarten in Fremont and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$144,244 for this purpose and further authorize the School Board to apply for, and accept/expend federal, state and private grants for this purpose and further authorize the District to accept the sum of \$135,133 from the State of New Hampshire to fund the cost of teachers and the expenses of operating the kindergarten.

(Recommended by Fremont School Board) (Recommended By the Fremont Budget Committee)

Member Jeff Rowell moved the article. Member Christine Kenneway seconded the motion.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Member Jeff Rowell addressed the body. He stated that this is part of the 10 year plan to bring this issue to the voters and public funding for kindergarten will end as of June, 2007. Member Rowell stated he was going to read a portion of a document published by the NH Department of Education entitled, "Kindergarten in New Hampshire and Kindergarten Studies" dated November, 2006.

Ninety-one percent of NH states receive public kindergarten and 100% of children in 49 states receive kindergarten. He stated 11 results to the benefits of public kindergarten. For every dollar spent on public kindergarten, the public saves approximately \$7.16. He stated that research indicates that children who participate in kindergarten perform far superior to those who do not participate in kindergarten. He indicated that Ellis would have 2 morning and 2 afternoon kindergarten sessions with approximately 14 students in each class in 2 existing Ellis School classrooms. Member Rowell stated that this is an opportune time to approve public kindergarten and asked for questions.

Citizen Kohlhofer asked how much kindergarten would be of the school budget this year as he calculated about \$11,000 and would the grant money fund this year or next year? If we don't spend money how do we save money long term?

Principal Lewis stated that the cost to the district this year would be \$9,111.00 for this year. The funding for future years would come from the equitable aid fund from the state.

Citizen Bearse asked if the study took into account parents who read to their children or that some parents are better off than others.

Member Rowell stated that the research doesn't specifically account for that but there is enough evidence to indicate that kindergarten does help identify children earlier who may need remedial help.

Citizen Pat Bernhart stated that he was concerned for those families who cannot afford kindergarten and how beneficial it has been for his children.

Representative Dan Itse asked what is currently in place and if it would go away once kindergarten is instituted.

Principal Dawn Lewis stated that currently Ellis School has a transition class. The school was finding that about 10-12 children per year were not ready for first grade so a first grade transition class was put in place. At the end of the year, some students moved to the regular first grade class and if appropriate, some students would move onto second grade. The first year would be a transition year with the incoming first graders as to placement and will be determined at a later time.

Citizen Jason Pelgren stated that he has been very happy with the pre-school but the elementary and middle school test scores need improvement. Kindergarten would be a good step in improving test scores.

Citizen Linda Zukas moved the question.

There being no further discussion Moderator Rydeen called for a vote. He indicated to the body that the polls are open for one hour.

Citizen Teresa Blades made a motion requesting that the meeting continue during the vote. Citizen Yvonne Ouellette seconded.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion. With there being no discussion, Moderator Rydeen asked those in favor of continuing discussion indicate by saying aye. Those not in favor indicate by saying nay.

Motion passed by majority.

ARTICLE 2. Shall the Fremont School District create a successor cooperative district planning committee in accordance with RSA 195:18 consisting of three qualified voters of whom at least one shall be a member of the School Board and authorize the moderator to appoint the members of the committee and further to raise an appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for this purpose.

(Recommended by Fremont School Board) (Recommended By the Fremont Budget Committee)

School Board Chairman Joe Dreyer moved Article 2. Vice Chairman Peg Pinkham seconded.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Citizen Linda Zukas of the Cooperative Planning Committee stated that every 3 years a cooperative planning committee needs to be re-appointed in order for discussions with any towns to take place. Fremont is currently in discussions with the Sanborn Regional School District to form a K-12 district consisting of the towns of Fremont, Newton, and Kingston. The request for \$10,000 covers legal fees, paper work, and other expenses associated with the committee. Citizen Zukas read the report of the Fremont Cooperative Planning Committee highlighting that 14 out of the 17 Articles of Agreement have been approved.

Citizen Andy Kohlhoffer asked if the original intent of the cooperative was to be a Grade 9-12 District, when it was decided to be a Grade K-12 district that the Sanborn District delayed a vote because of financial issues of going from a Grade 9-12 district to a K-12 district.

Citizen Zukas stated that the intent was to look at all different scenarios including a 9-12, 7-12, and K-12 district. After doing some research, it was agreed that a K-12 district would best serve the students. The Joint Cooperative Planning Committee will be looking at the financial piece of the cooperative and bring forward a proposal to the 3 communities next year.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen called for a hand vote of those in favor indicate by raising your hand. Those not in favor indicate by raising your hand.

Article 2 passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 3. Shall the Fremont School District authorize the School Board to convey to the Town of Fremont for no consideration the District Land (Tax Map 2, Lot #151). This conveyance is contingent upon the cooperative articles of agreement for a Fremont/Sanborn Cooperative School District being adopted at the March 2008 School District Meeting in Sanborn and Fremont.

(Recommended by Fremont School Board)

Member Marion Guidiboni moved Article 3. Member Chris Kenneway seconded the motion.

Member Guidiboni made a motion to amend Article 3. Chairman Dreyer seconded.

Member Guidiboni stated Article 3 should read Tax Map 2, Lot #151 and Lot #151-1. Lot #151-1 is a piece of the parcel separated by the railroad tracks.

Moderator Rydeen asked for a hand vote of those in favor of amending Article 3 indicate by raising your hand. Those not in favor indicate by raising your hand.

Motion to Amend Article 3 passed by Majority.

Member Guidiboni briefly discussed the reason for Article 3.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen called for a hand vote of those in favor of the amended article indicate by raising your hand. Those not in favor indicate by raising your hand.

Article 3 passed by Majority.

Vice Chairman Peg Pinkham made a motion not to reconsider. Fremont citizen seconded motion.

***Moderator Rydeen read the results of voting on Article 1. Yes-130 and No-25**

Article 1 passed by Majority.

ARTICLE 4. *To see what sum of money the District will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District. This article does not include appropriations voted on in other warrant articles. (Majority Vote Required).*

	Budget Committee Recommended	School Board Recommended
1100 Regular Education	\$4,529,799	\$4,529,799
1200 Special Education	1,508,787	1,508,787
1300 Vocational Education	0	0
1400 Other Programs	40,090	40,090
2110 Attendance	1	1
2120 Guidance	123,930	123,930
2130 Health	62,203	62,203
2140 Psychological	75,200	75,200
2150 Speech & Audiology	139,029	139,029
2160 Physical & Occupational	151,690	151,690
2210 Improvement of Instruction	56,144	56,144
2220 Educational Media	172,552	172,552
2310 School Board	56,144	56,144
2320 Offices of Superintendent	223,643	223,643
2330 Special Ed. Administration	108,955	108,955
2400 School Administration	267,313	267,313
2600 Operation of Plant	398,125	398,125
2700 Student Transportation	490,389	490,389
2900 Support Benefits	282,365	282,365
4000 Facilities	0	0
5100 Debt Service	367,825	367,825
3100 Food Service	107,521	107,521
5300 Federal Grants	184,505	184,505
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$9,350,666	\$9,350,666

(\$9,350,666 Recommended by the Fremont School Board)
(\$9,350,666 Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee)

Member Kenneway made a motion to move Article 4. Chairman Dreyer seconded the motion.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Citizen Joanne Sullivan made a motion to amend Article 4 by \$63,867.75 for a total school budget of \$9,414,533.75. Fremont Citizen seconded the motion.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Citizen Sullivan stated that children who are high potential learners should have an opportunity for higher level learning by adding an Enrichment Coordinator to the school staff. She indicated that by the time she completed her research, the deadline had passed for her to bring this proposal through the usual budget process. Citizen Sullivan stated that just as special needs students need to be identified, high potential learners also need to be identified and put on an accelerated pace that they need. The NH Department of Education has developed a Gift and Talented Curriculum Frameworks Addendum to assist in the curriculum. An enrichment coordinator would be hired and start in September with a group of 20-25 children and enrollment would increase as more children are identified.

Representative Itse made a motion to make the Gifted and Talented Program a line item in the budget.

Citizen Kohlhoffer asked if the School Board would consider reviewing the proposal and bringing it forward in 1 year.

Vice Chairman Peg Pinkham stated that although this proposal was brought to them recently, they have had discussions with the school administration on this topic. The school board did discuss it at the last meeting and they do want to support all students in any way they can.

Principal Lewis stated that she has had many discussions with community members concerning this topic. It is difficult to meet the needs of these students because of staffing and the need for classroom teachers to receive professional development in this area. This program would certainly enhance the menu of services available to gifted and high potential learners.

Fremont citizen asked if the money was to study the gifted and talented program or to implement it.

Citizen Sullivan stated that the curriculum is already in the frameworks and that the money would be to implement the program.

Citizen Allison O'Neal requested the opinion of the school board.

Member Kenneway stated that they discussed it last Tuesday and that Citizen Sullivan and the Financial Administrator reviewed the cost of hiring an enrichment coordinator and with administration on how to implement the program. The coordinator would start in the fall and work on developing the program. The programming would begin the following year.

Citizen Sullivan asked for the individual opinion of each School Board Member on an Enrichment Program.

Member Rowell stated he was supportive of the motion.

Chairman Joe Dreyer stated that the consensus of the school board is that it is a good program. However, the Budget Committee has not had an opportunity to be part of the financial process and The School Board does not want to give them the impression that they are trying to circumvent the Budget Committee especially because they worked very well together this year. That being said, he stated that both the School Board and Budget Committee are elected officials who serve the people. The body has the right to hear this motion and vote on it.

Fremont Citizen asked if the administration was required to spend the allotted money for the program.

Counsel Gordan Graham stated it is not binding and no the administration is not required to do so.

A few citizens of Fremont spoke on the need for the program. A non-Fremont citizen wished to speak but was denied the floor.

A Fremont citizen asked if the program could be implemented with hiring an enrichment coordinator.

Principal Lewis stated no.

Vice Chairman Pinkham stated the teachers at Ellis School work hard to meet the individual needs of students.

Citizen Ida Keane indicated her support of Citizen Sullivan, the School Board, and indicated she hoped the body would support this motion.

Representative Itse asked if the body could approve a special meeting and what the cost of the meeting would be.

Chairman Dreyer indicated another meeting would cost \$3000.00

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen asked those in favor of adding the money to the budget, indicate by hand vote. Those not in favor, indicate by hand vote

Amendment passed with Majority.

Vice Chairman Peg Pinkham stated that the new budget figure is \$9,414,533.75, a net increase of \$121,234.75. Figure includes original budget and addition to budget. This would be an increase in tax .29 cents including the addition to the budget.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen asked those in favor of the amended budget, indicate by raising your hand. Those not in favor, indicate by raising your hand.

Article 4 passed with Majority.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Fremont School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Fremont School Board and the Fremont Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staff levels:

YEAR	ESTIMATED INCREASE
2007-2008	\$184,989
2008-2009	\$104,285

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$184,989 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

(Recommended by Fremont School Board) (Recommended By the Fremont Budget Committee)

Member Kenneway moved Article 5. Member Guidiboni seconded.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Citizen Bearse asked where does merit come into the negotiation process with the teachers.

Member Kenneway responded by stating that they talk to administrators about teachers evaluations teacher, self evaluations and setting goals with the teachers. However, negotiations deal with the union as a whole and not with individual teachers.

Member Kenneway highlighted some key points of the contract including contractual days and level of education of Ellis School teachers. The State of NH averages approximately 46% teachers with master's degree. Ellis School has approximately 72% of teachers with a master's degree. The minimum state average for salaries is \$29,234.00 for teachers with a B.S. Ellis School's minimum salary with a B.S. is \$27,417.00 with Fremont ranking 121 out of 160 for salaries in the state.

Other items highlighted were the amount of time teachers are contractually obligated to stay after school and required evenings. Teachers will also be required to increase the amount of contribution they make to health insurance. Member Kenneway referred the body to a handout which breaks down the costs and reviewed key points with them.

Citizen Jason Kalgren reviewed 2005-2006 test scores with averages in the state as compared to Fremont in reading and math and stated that Fremont test scores in general are very poor and that something needs to be done about it.

Member Kenneway stated that she wanted the body to understand that we not only need to keep the teachers that we have, but attract quality teachers and have a competitive salary schedule with other communities.

Principal Killen addressed the test score concern by stating the most test score results from 2006-2007 went up in both reading and math and that the school is showing progress. She also stated elementary school and middle school are at different developmental stages and that it is more effective to have 1 person in the elementary school and 1 person in the middle school who can address these specific developmental states. The test scores indicate that in the last two years what has been put in place is working and we are making progress.

Citizen Kalgren stated he would like to see improvement in the test scores and then reward the teachers.

Citizen Theresa Blades called the question. Citizen Yvonne Ouellette seconded.

Moderator Rydeen reread Article 5 for the body. Moderator Rydeen stated all those in favor indicate by raising your hand. All those not in favor, indicate by raising your hand.

Article 5 passed by Majority.

Member Kenneway motioned to table Article 6. Citizen Blades seconded the motion.

Moderator Rydeen stated all those in favor or tabling Article 6 indicate by raising your hand. All those not in favor, indicate by raising your hand.

Motion to table Article 6 passed by Majority.

Chairman Dreyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Peg Pinkham seconded.

Moderator Rydeen stated all those in favor of adjourning the meeting, indicate by raising your hand. All those not in favor, indicate by raising your hand.

With no further transactions to come before the voting body, Moderator Rydeen adjourned the Fremont School District Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kathi Picone
Fremont School District Board Clerk